

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 10-18 were pending. Claims 10-18 have been cancelled without prejudice herein. Claims 19-26 are newly added.

Claims 10, 13, 14, 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhu (United States Patent No. 6,100,863). Claims 11, 12, 15 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without acceding to the correctness of the present rejection, and solely for purposes of expediting prosecution of the present application, Applicant has cancelled Claims 10-18, without prejudice, herein. Applicant has added new Claims 19-26 without prejudice herein. Applicant respectfully submits new Claims 19-26 are in condition for allowance.

More particularly, Applicant submits that newly added independent method Claim 19 includes the allowable subject matter associated with canceled claim 11. New claims 20-23 depend from independent claim 19. Newly added independent apparatus claim 24 includes allowable subject matter associated with canceled claim 17. New claims 25-26 depend ultimately from apparatus claim 24. Accordingly, Applicant submits that new Claims 19-26 patentably distinguish over the cited references of record and should be allowed; such allowance is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, Applicant believes he has addressed all outstanding grounds raised by the Examiner and respectfully submits the present case is in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any questions or outstanding matters, the Examiner is cordially invited and requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at his number listed below. Should there be any fees due, the Patent Office is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3208.

Respectfully submitted,


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